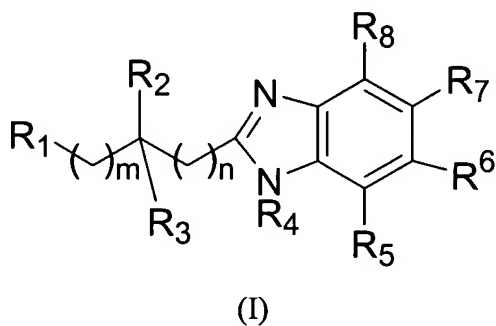


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of Formula (I):



wherein

m is an integer of from 0 to 3;

n is an integer of from 0 to 3;

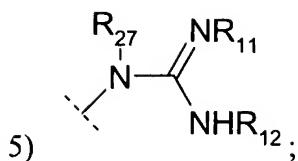
R₁ is aryl;

R₂ is

a group of the formula -N(R₉R₁₀), -NHC(O)R₉, or -NHC(O)OR₉;

wherein R₉ and R₁₀ are independently selected from the group consisting of

- 1) -H;
- 2) -Aryl;
- 3) -C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- 4) -C₁₋₆ alkylaryl; and



~~6) aryl; and~~

~~7) C₁₋₆ alkyl;~~

R₃ and R₄ are independently selected from the group consisting of

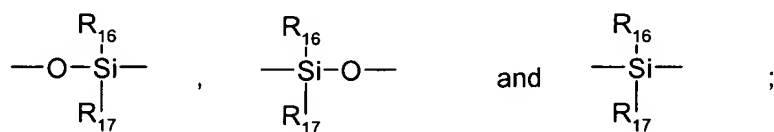
- a) H;
- b) -aryl;
- c) -C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- d) -C₁₋₆ alkylaryl; and
- e) -C₁₋₆ alkoxyaryl;

R₅, R₆, R₇, and R₈ are independently selected from the group consisting of

- a) -H;
- b) -C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- c) -aryl;
- d) -C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;
- e) -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- f) -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;
- g) -C(O)-NH-C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- h) -C(O)-NH-C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;
- i) -SO₂-C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- j) -SO₂-C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;
- k) -SO₂-aryl;
- l) -SO₂-NH-C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- m) -SO₂-NH-C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;

- n) -C(O)-C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- o) -C(O)-C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;
- p) -Y-C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- q) -Y-aryl;
- r) -Y-C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;
- s) -Y-C₁₋₆ alkylene-NR₁₃R₁₄;
- t) -Y-C₁₋₆ alkylene-W-R₁₅;

wherein Y and W are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-, -O-, -N(H)-, -S-, SO₂-, -CON(H)-, -NHC(O)-, -NHCON(H)-, -NHSO₂-, -SO₂N(H)-, -C(O)-O-, -NHSO₂NH-, -O-CO-,



wherein R₁₆ and R₁₇ are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylaryl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, and C₁-C₆ alkoxyaryl;

R₁₅ is aryl, C₁-C₆ alkyl, or C₁-C₆ alkylaryl; and

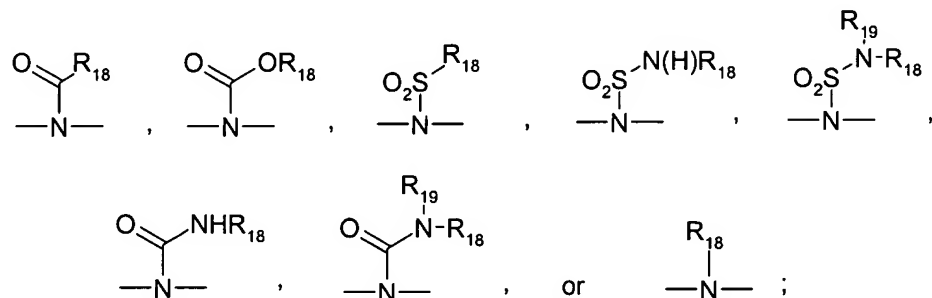
- u) halogen, hydroxyl, cyano, carbamoyl, and carboxyl;

wherein at least one of R₅, R₆, R₇, and R₈ is -Y-C₁₋₆ alkylene-NR₁₃R₁₄, and

R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, and R₁₄ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, aryl, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylaryl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, and C₁-C₆ alkoxyaryl; or

R₁₃ and R₁₄ are taken together to form a ring having the formula -(CH₂)₆-X-(CH₂)_p- bonded to the nitrogen atom to which R₁₃ and R₁₄ are attached, and/or R₁₁ and R₁₂ are

taken together to form a ring having the formula $-(CH_2)_o-X-(CH_2)_p-$ bonded to the atoms to which R_{11} and R_{12} are connected, wherein o and p are, independently, 1, 2, 3, or 4; X is a direct bond, $-CH_2-$, $-O-$, $-S-$, $-S(O_2)-$, $-C(O)-$, $-CON(H)-$, $-NHC(O)-$, $-NHCON(H)-$, $-NHSO_2-$, $-SO_2N(H)-$, $-C(O)-O-$, $-O-C(O)-$, $-NHSO_2NH-$,

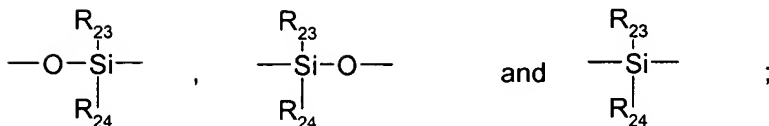


wherein R_{18} and R_{19} are alkyl or aryl; and

wherein the aryl and/or alkyl group(s) in R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} , R_{12} , R_{13} , R_{14} , R_{15} , R_{16} , R_{17} , R_{18} , and R_{19} may be optionally substituted 1-4 times with a substituent group, wherein said substituent group(s) or the term substituted refers to groups selected from the group consisting of:

- a) $-H$;
- b) $-Z-C_{1-6}$ alkyl;
- $-Z$ -aryl;
- $-Z-C_{1-6}$ alkylaryl;
- $-Z-C_{1-6}$ -alkyl- $NR_{20}R_{21}$;
- $-Z-C_{1-6}$ -alkyl- $W-R_{22}$;

wherein Z and W are independently selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-O-$, $-N(H)-$, $-S-$, SO_2- , $-CON(H)-$, $-NHC(O)-$, $-NHCON(H)-$, $-NHSO_2-$, $-SO_2N(H)-$, $-C(O)-O-$, $-NHSO_2NH-$, $-O-CO-$,



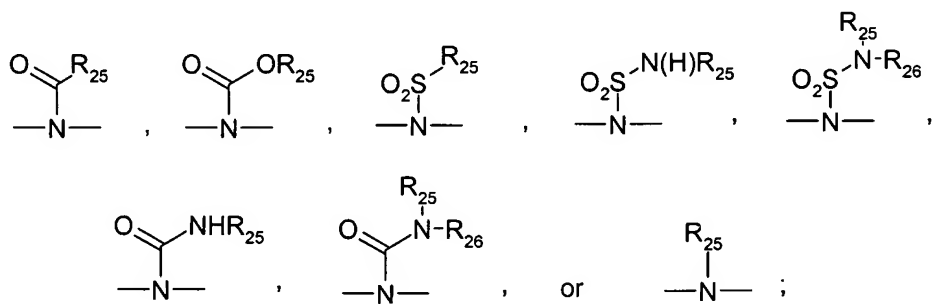
wherein;

R_{22} , R_{23} , and R_{24} are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylaryl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, and C_1 - C_6 alkoxyaryl;

c) halogen, hydroxyl, cyano, and carbamoyl; and

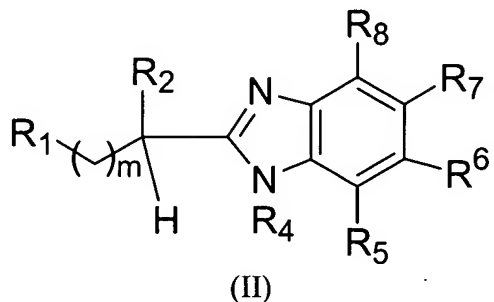
wherein R_{20} and R_{21} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, aryl, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylaryl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, and C_1 - C_6 alkoxyaryl; or

R_{20} and R_{21} are taken together to form a ring having the formula $-(\text{CH}_2)_q\text{-X-(CH}_2)_r\text{-}$ bonded to the nitrogen atom to which R_{20} and R_{21} are attached wherein q and r are, independently, 1, 2, 3, or 4; X is a direct bond, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{O-}$, $-\text{S-}$, $-\text{S}(\text{O}_2)\text{-}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{-}$, $-\text{CON}(\text{H})\text{-}$, $-\text{NHC}(\text{O})\text{-}$, $-\text{NHCON}(\text{H})\text{-}$, $-\text{NH}\text{SO}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{H})\text{-}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{-O-}$, $-\text{O-C}(\text{O})\text{-}$, $-\text{NH}\text{SO}_2\text{NH-}$,



~~R_{25} , R_{26} , and R_{27}~~ R_{25} and R_{26} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, aryl, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, and C_1 - C_6 alkylaryl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein m is an integer of from 0 to 3;
n is 0; R₃ is hydrogen as represented by the formula (II)



and wherein

R₁ is an aryl group;

R₂ is a group of the formula -N(R₉R₁₀), -NHC(O)R₉, or -NHC(O)OR₉;

wherein R₉ and R₁₀ are independently selected from the group consisting of

- 1) -H;
- 2) -Aryl;
- 3) -C₁₋₆ alkyl; and
- 4) -C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;

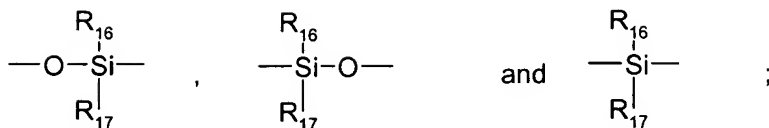
R₄ is

- a) H;
- b) -aryl;
- c) -C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- d) -C₁₋₆ alkylaryl; or
- e) -C₁₋₆ alkoxyaryl;

R₅, R₆, R₇, and R₈ are independently selected from the group consisting of

- a) -H;
- b) -C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- c) -aryl;
- d) -C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;
- e) -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- f) -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;
- g) -C(O)-NH-C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- h) -C(O)-NH-C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;
- i) -SO₂-C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- j) -SO₂-C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;
- k) -SO₂-aryl;
- l) -SO₂-NH-C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- m) -SO₂-NH-C₁₋₆ alkylaryl
- n) -C(O)-C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- o) -C(O)-C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;
- p) -Y-C₁₋₆ alkyl;
- q) -Y-aryl;
- r) -Y-C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;
- s) -Y-C₁₋₆ alkylene-NR₁₃R₁₄;
- t) -Y-C₁₋₆ alkylene-W-R₁₅;

wherein Y and W are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-, -O-, -N(H), -S-, SO₂-, -CON(H)-, -NHC(O)-, -NHCON(H)-, -NHSO₂-, -SO₂N(H)-, -C(O)-O-, -NHSO₂NH-, -O-CO-,



wherein R_{16} and R_{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkylaryl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkoxy, and $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkoxyaryl;

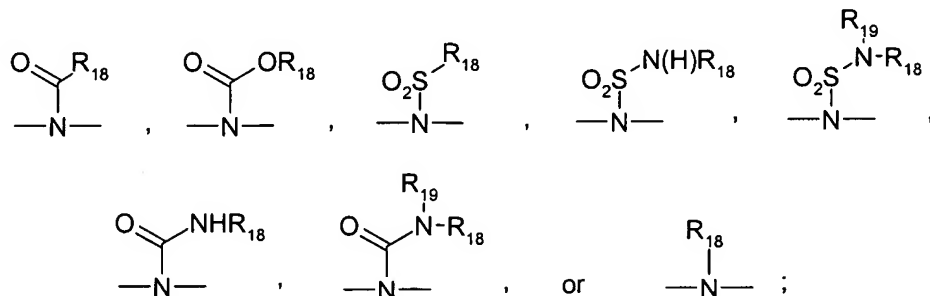
R_{15} is aryl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkylaryl, and

u) halogen, hydroxyl, cyano, carbamoyl, and carboxyl;

wherein at least one of R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , and R_8 is $-\text{Y-C}_{1-6}\text{ alkylene-N-R}_{13}\text{R}_{14}$,

R_{13} , and R_{14} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, aryl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkylaryl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkoxy, and $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkoxyaryl; or

R_{13} and R_{14} are together to form a ring having the formula $-(\text{CH}_2)_o\text{-X-(CH}_2)_p\text{-}$ bonded to the nitrogen atom to which R_{13} and R_{14} are attached, wherein o and p are, independently, 1, 2, 3, or 4; X is a direct bond, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{O-}$, $-\text{S-}$, $-\text{S(O)}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{C(O)-}$, $-\text{CON(H)-}$, $-\text{NHC(O)-}$, $-\text{NHCON(H)-}$, $-\text{NHSO}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{N(H)-}$, $-\text{C(O)-O-}$, $-\text{O-C(O)-}$, $-\text{NHSO}_2\text{NH-}$,

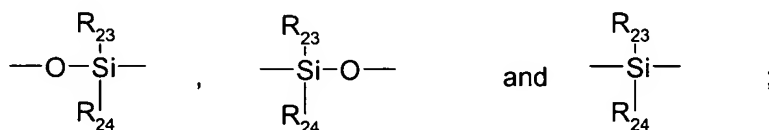


wherein R_{18} and R_{19} are alkyl or aryl; and

and wherein the aryl and/or alkyl group(s) in R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉, R₁₀, R₁₃, R₁₄, R₁₅, R₁₆, R₁₇, R₁₈, and R₁₉ may be optionally substituted 1-4 times with a substituent group, wherein said substituent group(s) or the term substituted refers to groups selected from the group consisting of:

- a) -H;
- b) -Z-C₁₋₆ alkyl;
 -Z-aryl;
 -Z-C₁₋₆ alkylaryl;
 -Z-C₁₋₆-alkyl-NR₂₀R₂₁;
 -Z-C₁₋₆-alkyl-W-R₂₂;

wherein Z and W are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-, -O-, -N(H)-, -S-, -SO₂-, -CON(H)-, -NHC(O)-, -NHCON(H)-, -NHSO₂-, -SO₂N(H)-, -C(O)-O-, -NHSO₂NH-, -O-CO-,



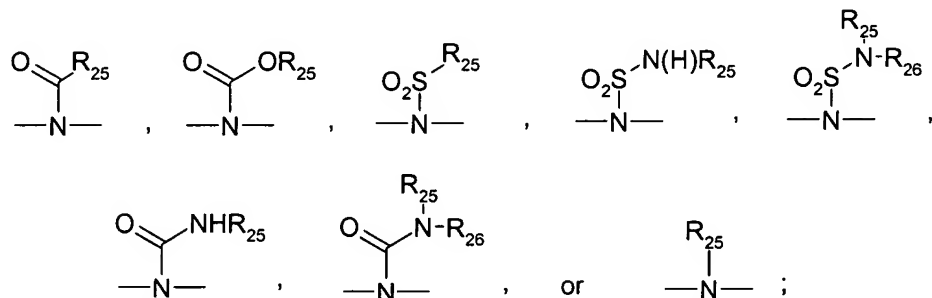
wherein;

R₂₂, R₂₃, and R₂₄ are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylaryl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, and C₁-C₆ alkoxyaryl;

- c) halogen, hydroxyl, cyano, and carbamoyl; and

wherein R₂₀ and R₂₁ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, aryl, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylaryl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, and C₁-C₆ alkoxyaryl; or

R₂₀ and R₂₁ are taken together to form a ring having the formula -(CH₂)_q-X-(CH₂)_r- bonded to the nitrogen atom to which R₂₀ and R₂₁ are attached wherein q and r are, independently, 1, 2, 3, or 4; X is a direct bond, -CH₂-, -O-, -S-, -S(O₂)-, -C(O)-, -CON(H)-, -NHC(O)-, -NHCON(H)-, -NHSO₂-, -SO₂N(H)-, -C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-, -NHSO₂NH-,



R₂₅ and R₂₆ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, aryl, C₁-C₆ alkyl, and C₁-C₆ alkylaryl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-ethyl]-3-butyl-5-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

4. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1-amino-1-ethyl]-3-butyl-5-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole Trihydrochloride.

5. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-ethyl]-3-butyl-6-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

6. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1-amino-1-ethyl]-3-butyl-6-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

7. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-ethyl]-6-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

8. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1-amino-1-ethyl]-6-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

9. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[2-(3-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1-(tert-butoxycarbonylamino)-1-ethyl]-3-butyl-5-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

10. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-1-(tert-butoxycarbonylamino)-1-ethyl]-3-butyl-5-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

11. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-(4-Chloro)phenethoxy)phenyl)-1-(tert-butoxycarbonylamino)-1-ethyl]-3-butyl-5-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

12. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1-(tert-butoxycarbonylamino)-1-ethyl]-3-(3-diethylamino-1-propyl)-5-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

13. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1-(tert-butoxycarbonylamino)-1-ethyl]-3-ethyl-5-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

14. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1-amino-1-ethyl]-3-(3-diethylamino-1-propyl)-5-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

15. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1-(tert-butoxycarbonylamino)-1-ethyl]-3-benzyl-5-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

16. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1-amino-1-ethyl]-3-benzyl-5-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

17. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1-(tert-butoxycarbonylamino)-1-ethyl]-3-propyl-5-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

18. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-[(1R)-2-(4-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1-amino-1-ethyl]-3-propyl-5-(3-diethylamino-1-propoxy)benzimidazole.

19. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of Formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, or diluents.

20. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of ~~to~~ claim 19, in the form of an oral dosage or parenteral dosage unit.

21. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19, wherein said compound is administered as a dose in a range from about 0.01 to 500 mg/kg of body weight per day.

22. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19, wherein said compound is administered as a dose in a range from about 0.1 to 200 mg/kg of body weight per day.

23. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19, wherein said compound is administered as a dose in a range from about 0.1 to 100 mg/kg of body weight per day.

24. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19, further comprising one or more therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of alkylating agents, antimetabolites, plant alkaloids, antibiotics, hormones, biologic response modifiers, analgesics, NSAIDs, DMARDs, glucocorticoids, sulfonylureas, biguanides, insulin, cholinesterase inhibitors, antipsychotics, antidepressants, and anticonvulsants.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method of treating RAGE mediated human diseases comprising administration to a human in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein a therapeutically effective amount comprises sufficient compound to at least partially inhibit the binding of a physiological ligand to the RAGE receptor, and wherein the RAGE mediated human disease comprises acute and/or chronic inflammation.

32. (Previously Presented) A method of treating RAGE mediated human diseases comprising administering to a human in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein a therapeutically effective amount comprises sufficient compound to at least partially inhibit the binding of a physiological ligand to the RAGE receptor, and wherein the RAGE mediated human disease comprises abnormal vascular permeability.

33. (Previously Presented) A method of treating RAGE mediated human diseases comprising administering to a human in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein a therapeutically effective amount comprises sufficient compound to at least partially inhibit the binding of a physiological ligand to the RAGE receptor, and wherein the RAGE mediated human disease comprises nephropathy.

34. (Previously Presented) A method of treating RAGE mediated human diseases comprising administering to a human in need thereof a therapeutically effective

amount of a compound of Formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein a therapeutically effective amount comprises sufficient compound to at least partially inhibit the binding of a physiological ligand to the RAGE receptor, and wherein the RAGE mediated human disease comprises atherosclerosis.

35. (Previously Presented) A method of treating RAGE mediated human diseases comprising administering to a human in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein a therapeutically effective amount comprises sufficient compound to at least partially inhibit the binding of a physiological ligand to the RAGE receptor, and wherein the RAGE mediated human disease comprises retinopathy.

36. (Previously Presented) A method of treating RAGE mediated human diseases comprising administering to a human in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein a therapeutically effective amount comprises sufficient compound to at least partially inhibit the binding of a physiological ligand to the RAGE receptor, and wherein the RAGE mediated human disease comprises Alzheimer's disease.

37. (Previously Presented) A method of treating RAGE mediated human diseases comprising administering to a human in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein a therapeutically effective amount comprises sufficient compound to at least partially inhibit the binding of a physiological ligand to the RAGE receptor, and wherein the RAGE mediated human disease comprises erectile dysfunction.

38. (Canceled)
39. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein R₄ is
- a) -aryl;
 - b) -C₁₋₆ alkyl;
 - c) -C₁₋₆ alkylaryl; or
 - d) -C₁₋₆ alkoxyaryl.